

IMPROVE EDUCATION
PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT
ADDRESS INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES
ADOPT SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC STRATEGIES
MEET HUMAN NEEDS & PRESERVE LOCAL CULTURE

FOCUS OUR
MAUI ISLANDS
NUI OUR FUTURE

Own it!

Our Heritage: The Chinese

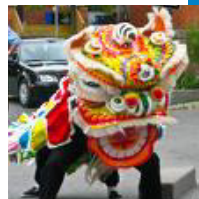
Chinese influence in Maui Nui goes far beyond religion, manapua, lion dancing, and community societies. Agriculture flourished. Sugar cane existed on the islands already, but the knowledge of how to refine it and most importantly, how to make money from it, came with those first Chinese in Hawaii. In 1802, Wong Tze Chun planted sugar cane on Lanai. Unfortunately his small sugar cane farm was doomed to failure by the dry soil of Lanai. In 1823, Hung Tai built his sugar mill in Wailuku, Maui. However, his sugar production also failed. In 1828, Kamehameha III built a water-powered sugar mill, designed by two Chinese technicians, on Maui. And George Wilfong, an entrepreneurial whaler, established Maui's first sugar plantation in Hana. The Chinese brought sugar to Hawaii, and now sugar began to bring the Chinese to Hawaii.



From 1850 - 1898 Chinese were the most numerous immigrants to Hawaii, numbering almost 50,000.

Although it is commonly thought that the present day Chinese in Hawaii are descendants of sugar plantation contract laborers, this is something of a misconception. A larger proportion of island-born Chinese families sprang from plantation entrepreneurs, independent farmers, craftsmen, merchants, and professional men who found Hawaii a pleasant land of opportunity. The Chinese have prospered in Hawaii and have had a positive and powerful influence in the unique cultural experience called Hawaii.

Lanai holds the distinction of being the island where the Chinese produced the first sugar in Hawaii.



FOCUS MAUI NUI is a community-driven vision for the future of our islands, spearheaded by Maui Economic Development Board, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the economic well-being of Maui County. VISIT www.focusmauinui.com or CALL 808.270.6801